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Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Indonesia and East Timor. (Agreed to by the Senate)

SRES 237 ATS

105th CONGRESS

2d Session

S. RES. 237

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Indonesia and East Timor.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 22, 1998

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COATS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

June 23, 1998

Reported by Mr. HELMS, without amendment

July 10, 1998

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Indonesia and East Timor.

Whereas recent political turmoil and economic failure in Indonesia have endangered the people of that

country and fomented instability in the region;

Whereas President Suharto has properly responded to this crisis by resigning, after 32 years in office, the presidency of Indonesia in accordance with Indonesia's constitutional processes;

Whereas Indonesia is now embarking on a new era that is ripe for political and economic reform;

Whereas in 1975 Indonesia invaded, and since that time has illegally occupied, East Timor claiming the lives of approximately 200,000 East Timorese;

Whereas Indonesia has systematically committed human rights abuses against the people of East Timor through arbitrary arrests, torture, disappearances, extra-judicial executions, and general political repression;

Whereas 8 United Nations General Assembly and 2 United Nations Security Council resolutions have reaffirmed the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination;

Whereas Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta, who were awarded the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for their courageous contribution to the East Timorese struggle, have called for a United Nations-sponsored referendum on self-determination of the East Timorese;

Whereas President Clinton in a letter dated December 27, 1996, expressed interest in the idea of a United Nations-sponsored referendum on self-determination in East Timor;

Whereas the United States cosponsored a 1997 United Nations Human Rights Commission Resolution calling for Indonesia to comply with the directives of existing United Nations resolutions regarding East Timor; and

Whereas present circumstances provide a unique opportunity for a resolution of the East Timor question: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should--

(1) encourage the new political leadership in Indonesia to institute genuine democratic and economic reforms, including the establishment of an independent judiciary, civilian control of the military, and the release of political prisoners;

(2) encourage the new political leadership in Indonesia to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the people of Indonesia and East Timor; and

(3) work actively, through the United Nations and with United States allies, to carry out the directives of existing United Nations resolutions on East Timor and to support an internationally supervised referendum on self-determination.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

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